

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/752,198

Applicant(s)

HAYDT, LEO A.

Examiner

Art Unit

Charlie C. Agwumezie

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 11/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-20, and 37-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/22/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Charlie C.L. Agwumezie
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5, 7-20, and 37-43 is allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of records are U.S. Patent No. 5,036,984 to Labarthe, U.S. Patent No. 6,168,080 to Verschuur and U.S. patent No. 5,819,241 to Reiter.

Applicant discloses a method for verifying a correct association between information printed on a closed face package and material and/or information contained inside the closed face package, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a closed face package including a document inserted within the package, wherein the package has a window permitting a portion of the document to be read from a location outside of the package, and wherein the package comprises: (i) package data printed on the package and corresponding to account information corresponding to a mail recipient; and (ii) document data printed on the inserted document, the document data corresponding to the inserted document and corresponding to the account information; (b) providing a data file to access the account information stored therein, the data file corresponding to the package data, the document data, and to address data; (c) acquiring the address data representing recipient address information from the stored account information, sending printing instructions to a

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printer, and causing the printer to print the recipient address information on the closed face package; (d) determining at a predetermined point in time whether the printer has performed a printing operation on the closed face package and causing the closed face package to be rejected if the printer has not performed the printing operation at the predetermined point in time; (e) using a first reading device to optically read the printed package data on the package; (f) using a second reading device to optically read the printed document data on the inserted document and appearing through the window; (g) reading the data file to access the account information stored therein; (h) comparing at least a portion of the accessed account information with the package data and comparing at least a portion of the accessed account information with the document data to determine whether a matching association exists between the package data and the document data; (i) if the matching association is determined to exist, allowing the package to be further processed; and (j) if the matching association is determined not exist, preventing the package from being further processed.

Labarthe discloses a method for enabling, without first opening the envelope, prioritized processing of envelopes according to indication of clearing organizations of potentially enclosed checks. The method uses a payee address to convey information that encodes indicia of the clearing organization utilized by the drawer's payor bank. The address information is supplied in a manner so that the encoded indicia are readable from the unopened envelope. The envelopes are sorted unopened according to the encoded indicia after being read by an automatic reader such as an optical address reader, bar code reader, or combination thereof. After reading and sorting, the

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envelopes can be selectively processed in a manner determined by the encoded indicia of the clearing organization.

Verschuur discloses a system for acquiring encoded information from the contents of sealed envelopes or other layered structures that conceal the information from view. Verschuur is directed to outgoing mail that is subject to sorting and other processing errors that are difficult to detect because once sealed, the contents are concealed from view. Verschuur accomplishes this information acquisition by means of a transducer that measures changes in capacitance of a localized region beneath the surface of the envelope, such as can be produced by conductive inks or inks with a dielectric constant different from the paper upon which it is printed. The information obtained by the capacitance measurements can be used to affect further processing of the envelopes or other layered structures, such as comparing the obtained content information with address information optically read from the envelope to verify a match. The envelope content detector of Verschuur requires the use of a transducer or parallel plate capacitors that are connected to an amplifier whose output is then examined by a computer. Document information within the envelope is printed using either conductive ink or dielectric ink using conventional bar-code or other conventional symbols that are interpretable in alphanumeric characters, and when either ink passes between the plates of the transducer, the capacitance changes. The transducer of Verschuur is directed solely to detection of conductive or dielectric ink that may be present on one or more documents inserted into an envelope. There is no teaching or suggestion of optical reading by the detector of Verschuur that detects the

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envelope content information and therefore alphanumeric information, such as addresses, account numbers, and the like, cannot be read directly from the document inserts.

Reiter is directed to an interactive process in which a database of demographic and other relevant information is used to selectively apply specific targeted information, such as advertisements, coupons, or messages onto a letter or parcel, if there is a match between the sender and/or recipient information on the letter or parcel and the information in the database. Reiter is also directed to a process for billing a parcel sender for the delivery of the parcel based on sender's account information stored in a database and printed on the parcel for OCR detection.

Labarthe, Verschuur, and Reiter fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the features of amended independent claims 1 and 37. Specifically, Labarthe, Verschuur, and Reiter fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the provision of separate data types (package data, document data, and address data) which each correspond to at least a portion of account information corresponding to a mail recipient, wherein first and second reading devices optically read the package data (that is distinct from the address data) and the document data, respectively. Furthermore, Labarthe, Verschuur, and Reiter fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination: acquiring the address data representing recipient address information from the stored account information, sending printing instructions to a printer, and causing the printer to print the recipient address information on the closed face package; (d) determining at a predetermined point in time whether

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the printer has performed a printing operation on the closed face package and causing the closed face package to be rejected if the printer has not performed the printing operation at the predetermined point in time; using a first reading device to optically read the printed package data on the package; Additionally, Labarthe, Verschuur, and Reiter fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination: providing a data file to access the account information stored therein, the data file corresponding to the package data, the document data, and the address data; reading of the data file to access the account information stored therein; and comparing at least a portion of the accessed account information with the package data and comparing at least a portion of the accessed account information with the document data to determine whether a matching association exists between the package data and the document data as claimed by the present invention.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants disclosure.

- Robinson (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,060) discloses Computerized Manual Mail Distribution Method and Apparatus.
- Wells et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032881 A1) discloses In-line verification, Reporting and Tracking Apparatus and Method for Mail Pieces.
- Eisner et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,858,907) discloses System for Feeding Envelopes for Simultaneous Printing of Addresses and Bar codes.

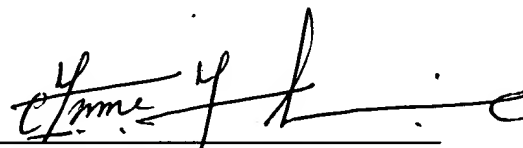
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is **(571) 272-6838**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on **(571) 272 – 6779**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

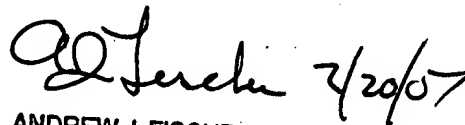
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Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Charlie Lion Agwumezie
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621

Acc
January 11, 2007



ANDREW J. FISCHER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600